What is claimed is:

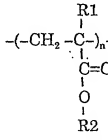
1. An ink for ink jet printer comprising:

a dispersant mainly comprising an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent;

a color material insoluble in said dispersant;

a polymer including repeating units represented by the following general formula (1) and soluble in said dispersant; and

a metal soap.



formula (1)

wherein R1 is one of a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and R2 is an alkyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms.

2. The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein the number of carbon atoms of a fatty acid constituting said metal soap is 6 to 12.

3. The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein a fatty acid constituting said metal soap is selected from a group consisting of naphthenic acid, octylic acid and a mixture thereof.

4. The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein said dispersant is a hydrocarbon solvent having a volume resistivity of at least 10^{13} Ωcm and a boiling point ranging from 150 to 350 °C.

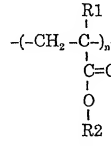
5. The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein a volume resistivity of said ink is at least 10^{10} Ωcm at a temperature of 25 °C and a ζ potential of said

color material is at least 90 mV.

6. The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein said ink is for use with an electrostatic ink jet recording apparatus.

7. A method of controlling electrostatic charge of a color material in an ink for ink jet printer comprising:

adding, to said ink comprising a dispersant mainly comprising an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent and said color material insoluble in said dispersant, a metal soap and a polymer having repeating units represented by the following general formula (1) and soluble in said dispersant.



formula (1)

wherein R1 is one of a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and R2 is an alkyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms.